United Nations E/ESCAP/70/L.2/Rev.1

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
1 April 2014

Original: English

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Seventieth session
Bangkok, 23 May 2014 (Phase I)*

Annotated provisional agenda

The present document contains the annotated provisional agenda for the seventieth session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

Annotations

A. Senior officials segment

1. Opening of the session

(a) Opening addresses

The detailed programme for the opening of the session will be made available upon finalization.

(b) Election of officers

Rule 13 of the rules of procedure of the Commission states: "The Commission shall, at its first meeting of each year, elect from among its representatives a Chairman and two Vice-Chairmen, designated as First and Second Vice-Chairmen, who shall hold office until their successors are elected. They shall be eligible for re-election." If the plenary so decides, the rule may be applied differently to enable the Commission to elect more than two vice-chairs, as has been the practice at previous sessions, in which case the Commission may elect a bureau of officers composed of a chair and several vice-chairs.

The senior officials segment may decide to meet in two committees of the whole and a working group on draft resolutions. It would then elect chairs and vice-chairs for each.

The ministerial segment will elect the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Commission.

(c) Adoption of the agenda

Documentation

Provisional agenda (E/ESCAP/70/L.1/Rev.1)

Annotated provisional agenda (E/ESCAP/70/L.2/Rev.1)

* The dates and venue of Phase II are still to be determined.

Please recycle

The provisional agenda was drawn up by the Executive Secretary in consultation with the current Chair of the Commission and with the advice of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission.

2. Special Body on Least Developed, Landlocked Developing and Pacific Island Developing Countries

(a) Preparations for the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, Samoa, 2014

Documentation

Summary of preparations for the Pacific for the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (E/ESCAP/70/1)

Small island developing States face unique challenges in pursuing sustainable development as a result of their small size, long distances from markets and the immediate threat from climate change. The special case of small island developing States was recognized at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, in 1992, and reaffirmed during the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, in 2012. In order to address these unique challenges, the first Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States was convened in 1994. The Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States will be held in Apia from 1 to 4 September 2014. The Conference will seek a renewed political commitment to assist small island developing States in overcoming their unique challenges and identify priority areas for future action. Representatives of Pacific small island developing States met in July 2013 to articulate their challenges and priorities in achieving sustainable development. The outcomes of this meeting, along with the outcomes of meetings held in 2013 in the Caribbean and Atlantic, Indian Ocean and South China Sea regions and an interregional meeting of small island developing States held in Barbados, will form the basis for discussions at the 2014 international meeting on small island developing States. This preparatory process, together with the unique challenges facing small island developing States, is outlined in the document.

The Special Body may wish to review the key outcomes of these preparatory meetings and provide the secretariat with guidance and comments on how the unique challenges of small island developing States may be addressed.

(b) Sustainable management of oceans for sustainable development and poverty eradication

Documentation

Sustainable management of oceans and seas for sustainable development and poverty eradication in Pacific small island developing States (E/ESCAP/70/2)

Pacific small island developing States have continued to reinforce the importance of the sustainable management of oceans and marine resources to their economies as a fundamental component of food security and for the maintenance of biodiversity. For these States, green economy policies focus heavily on the sustainability of the Pacific Ocean and its resources. In its resolution 69/17, the Commission requested the Executive Secretary to submit a report detailing the manner in which the secretariat can support

member States in the sustainable management of oceans and seas for sustainable development and poverty eradication to the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries at the seventieth session of the Commission. A summary of this report is given in document E/ESCAP/70/2.

The Special Body may wish to review the key outcomes of this analysis and provide the secretariat with guidance and comments on how the secretariat can support member States in the sustainable management of oceans and seas for sustainable development and poverty eradication.

(c) Development issues relevant to least developed countries

Documentation

Summary of the status of implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 in the Asia-Pacific region (E/ESCAP/70/3)

In May 2011, the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries adopted the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 (the Istanbul Programme of Action).[1] In the Istanbul Programme of Action, it was noted, among other things, that while the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,[2] predecessor to the Istanbul Programme of Action, had played a positive role in the development process of the least developed countries, its specific goals and actions had not been fully achieved. The improved economic performance in some least developed countries had had a limited impact on employment creation and poverty reduction. In many least developed countries, structural transformation was very limited and their vulnerability to external shocks had not been reduced.

The overarching goal of the Istanbul Programme of Action is to overcome the structural challenges faced by the least developed countries in order to eradicate poverty, achieve internationally agreed development goals and enable graduation from the least developed country category. The aim of the Istanbul Programme of Action is to enable half the number of least developed countries to meet the criteria for graduation by 2020 with a strong focus on developing their productive capacities. It is commonly recognized that the least developed countries, as the most vulnerable group of countries, need effective national policies, enhanced global support and appropriate mechanisms at all levels for the achievement of the goals and objectives of the Istanbul Programme of Action. As such, the Istanbul Programme of Action focuses on reducing the vulnerabilities of the least developed countries and addresses new challenges associated with development, including the effects of the interlinked food, fuel and economic crises and climate change, with a strong focus on structural transformation through increasing productive capacity. It also aims at generating full and productive employment and decent work for all, particularly for youth.

The Commission, in its resolution 68/2 on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 in the Asia-Pacific region, urged the countries of the region and international and regional organizations to accelerate the implementation, as appropriate, of the recommendations contained in the Istanbul Programme of

[1] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9-13 May 2011* (A/CONF.219/7), chap. II.

[2] A/CONF.191/13, chap. II.

Action and the Regional Road Map for Implementing the Istanbul Programme of Action in the Asian and Pacific Region from 2011 to 2020.[3]

The Special Body may wish to review the status of implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action in the Asia-Pacific region. It may also wish to provide further guidance on how the secretariat can assist Asia-Pacific least developed countries, in cooperation with development partners and other international entities while taking into account their respective mandates, in implementing the Istanbul Programme of Action, especially in assisting the least developed countries towards graduating out of the least developed country category.

(d) Development issues relevant to landlocked developing countries

Documentation

Summary of the status of implementation of the Vientiane Consensus (E/ESCAP/70/4)

Although significant progress has been made in several areas of the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries,[4] landlocked developing countries continue to face major challenges and development gaps. Lack of territorial access to the sea, remoteness and high transit costs continue to impose serious constraints to their development. Additional border crossings substantially increase the total expenses for the transport services. The economic performance of landlocked developing countries reflects the direct and indirect impact of their geographical situation. Many landlocked developing countries are among the poorest countries and their economies are typically heavily dependent on a very limited number of primary resources.

The Commission, in its resolution 69/2 on the final review of the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action in the Asia-Pacific region, requested the countries of the region and international and regional organizations to endorse the Vientiane Consensus[5] and urgently consider the implementation, as appropriate, of the recommendations contained therein.

The Special Body may wish to review the status of implementation of the Vientiane Consensus and provide the secretariat with further guidance on how the secretariat could assist landlocked developing countries in the region, in cooperation with development partners and other international entities while taking into account their respective mandates, in implementing the recommendations of the Vientiane Consensus and in building their capacity to make appropriate policy responses that mitigate the impact of economic crises, restore growth, contribute towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals and explicitly address emerging development challenges with a view to shaping the development agenda beyond 2015 with sustainable development at its core.

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[3] See E/ESCAP/68/23.

[4] *Report of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28 and 29 August 2003* (A/CONF.202/3), annex I.

[5] See E/ESCAP/69/1, annex.

(e) The perspectives of Asia-Pacific least developed, landlocked developing and Pacific island developing countries in the context of the development agenda beyond 2015

Documentation

The perspectives of Asia-Pacific least developed, landlocked developing and Pacific island developing countries in the context of the development agenda beyond 2015 (E/ESCAP/70/30)

While progress on the Millennium Development Goals has thus far been mixed for the region as a whole, it has been far less satisfactory for the group of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and several of the small island developing States of the region. Thus, for this group as a whole, the successes achieved by the region on many Millennium Development Goals have not been replicated: in addition to the poor performance in maternal and child health that the region as a whole faces, these countries are also lagging in providing quality primary schooling for all; thus, they are unlikely to meet targets for primary enrolment or completion or for gender parity in higher education. The development momentum that the Millennium Development Goals generated has led to significant improvements in these countries, however, and the Goals were therefore particularly critical for them. That momentum will be lost unless a new programme of international action is undertaken after the initial Millennium Development Goal period comes to a close in 2015.

The progress made and challenges encountered in achieving the Millennium Development Goals by the region's least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and several of the small island developing States is discussed in the document submitted by the secretariat, which also highlights the global and regional processes in framing the development agenda beyond 2015 and distils the perspectives of the region's least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States on the development agenda beyond 2015.

The Special Body may wish to review the progress made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals and provide its perspectives on the development agenda beyond 2015 and guide the secretariat with a view to ensuring that the perspectives of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States are adequately reflected in shaping the development agenda beyond 2015 with sustainable development at its core.

(f) Other matters

The Special Body may wish to consider other matters brought to its attention.

3. Review of issues pertinent to the subsidiary structure of the Commission, including the work of the regional institutions

The documents listed below contain information spanning all of the subprogrammes and the relevant sections will be deliberated under each subprogramme as required.

Documentation

Subprogramme overview: Issues and challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/70/5)

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (E/ESCAP/70/6)

Item 3 of the provisional agenda focuses on: (a) addressing the issues and challenges pertaining to the eight subprogrammes, including the work of the regional institutions; (b) the reports of subsidiary bodies of the Commission (where sessions have been held since the last Commission session); (c) reports of other intergovernmental bodies; and (d) progress in the implementation of Commission mandates. In the documents under this agenda item, key priorities and emerging issues that take into consideration the subregional perspectives are identified.

The expected outcomes under this agenda item are: (a) the identification of emerging development issues that merit policy dialogue; (b) the identification of progress achieved and gaps requiring priority attention with regard to the implementation of Commission mandates; (c) follow-up actions to major global conferences; (d) the articulation of Asian and Pacific perspectives on issues that will be addressed in major global forums in 2014; (e) the endorsement of the reports of the subsidiary bodies that have held sessions since the sixty-ninth session of the Commission; and (f) the identification of key issues to be taken up in meetings of subsidiary bodies in 2014.

(a) Macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and inclusive development

Documentation

Subprogramme overview: Issues and challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/70/5, section I)

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (E/ESCAP/70/6, resolutions 68/10, 69/2)

Report of the Ministerial Conference on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/70/7)

Report of the Governing Council of the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture on its tenth session (E/ESCAP/70/8)

Subprogramme overview: Issues and challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/70/5, section I)

The document provides an overview of the challenges that member countries face in achieving inclusive, resilient and sustainable development by promoting sustained and equitable economic growth, inclusive social development and environmental sustainability. These issues are discussed in the context of the ongoing uncertainty, which continues to affect developed economies and — through trade and financial channels — is having a negative impact on the region's development, and the need to accelerate progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. In the document, the special needs of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, and the work of the secretariat in support of those countries are highlighted. The document also

contains a discussion on the vital role of sustainable agriculture in tackling food insecurity and rural poverty, and the work of the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture (CAPSA) in that regard.

The Commission may wish to provide guidance on the policy options identified and the initiatives being undertaken by the secretariat to support member States.

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (E/ESCAP/70/6)

The document contains summaries of progress made in the implementation of Commission resolutions 68/10 on enhancing regional economic integration in Asia and the Pacific and 69/2 on the final review of the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action in the Asia-Pacific region.

The Commission may wish to review the progress achieved and provide the secretariat with further guidance for effective implementation of the above-mentioned resolutions.

Report of the Ministerial Conference on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/70/7)

The Ministerial Conference on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific was organized by ESCAP and held in Bangkok in December 2013. The Conference highlighted the need to foster regional economic integration as part of a long-term strategy to build an Asia-Pacific economic community. As part of such a strategy, the secretariat pointed to the four-pronged policy agenda that was highlighted in the 2012 theme study *Growing Together: Economic Integration for an Inclusive and Sustainable Asia-Pacific Century.*[6] The outcome of the Ministerial Conference, the Bangkok Declaration on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific, is submitted for the consideration of and possible endorsement by the Commission.

Report of the Governing Council of the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture on its tenth session (E/ESCAP/70/8)

The Commission may wish to review the report of the Governing Council and provide the secretariat with guidance for the future work of the Centre.

(b) Trade and investment

Documentation

Subprogramme overview: Issues and challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/70/5, section II)

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (E/ESCAP/70/6, resolution 68/3)

[6] Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, *Growing Together: Economic Integration for an Inclusive and Sustainable Asia-Pacific Century* (ST/ESCAP/2629).

Report of the Committee on Trade and Investment on its third session (E/ESCAP/70/9)

Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology on its ninth session (E/ESCAP/70/10)

Report of the Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization on its ninth session (E/ESCAP/70/11/Rev.1)

Subprogramme overview: Issues and challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/70/5, section II)

The document contains a review of recent trends and developments as well as emerging issues associated with trade- and investment-driven regional integration and cooperation. In the document, key areas of policy responses that countries in the Asia-Pacific region could pursue in order to strengthen the resilience of their economies and their ability to achieve inclusive and sustainable development are examined. In particular, the document focuses on polices and strategies to ensure that trade and investment leads to inclusive development outcomes, with special attention paid to issues related to regional trade and investment agreements, regional/global supply chains, trade facilitation measures and responsible business practices. Particular consideration is given to the role of private sector activities to ensure that they — through trade, investment and technology transfer — contribute to a set of developmental outcomes in the region. The document also contains a summary of the secretariat's initiatives to support countries in those efforts, including through initiatives undertaken by the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT) and the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (CSAM).

The Commission may wish to provide guidance on the policy options identified and the initiatives being undertaken by the secretariat to support member States.

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (E/ESCAP/70/6)

The document contains a summary of the progress made in the implementation of Commission resolution 68/3 on enabling paperless trade and the cross-border recognition of electronic data and documents for inclusive and sustainable intraregional trade facilitation.

The Commission may wish to review the progress achieved and provide the secretariat with further guidance for effective implementation of the resolution.

Report of the Committee on Trade and Investment on its third session (E/ESCAP/70/9)

The Committee held its third session in Bangkok from 20 to 22 November 2013. It reviewed recent trends and developments in the area of trade and investment, and discussed how to promote more inclusive trade and investment. The Committee also discussed ongoing regional initiatives under the subprogramme and global initiatives with implications for the work of ESCAP on trade and investment, as well as the activities APCTT and CSAM and the implementation of Commission resolution 68/3. Collaboration with other global and regional organizations and initiatives and the strategic direction and functioning of the Committee on Trade and Investment were

also reviewed. The Committee considered the proposed strategic framework 2016-2017 in respect of the subprogramme on trade and investment, as well as draft resolutions and decisions for submission to the Commission at its seventieth session.

The Commission may wish to consider the matters calling for action or brought to its attention, as contained in the report of the Committee, and provide the secretariat with further guidance.

Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology on its ninth session (E/ESCAP/70/10)

The Commission may wish to review the report of the Governing Council and provide the secretariat guidance for the future work of the Centre.

Report of the Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization on its ninth session (E/ESCAP/70/11/Rev.1)

The Commission may wish to review the report of the Governing Council and provide the secretariat with guidance for the future work of the Centre.

(c) Transport

Documentation

Subprogramme overview: Issues and challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/70/5, section III)

Report of the Forum of Asian Ministers of Transport on its second session (E/ESCAP/70/12)

Subprogramme overview: Issues and challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/70/5, section III)

The document provides a discussion on the major issues and challenges in the area of transport development in the region. It contains a description of recent developments in the realization of the Commission's long-term vision of an international integrated intermodal transport and logistics system, highlighting the signing of the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports,[7] which will facilitate the integration of the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway networks and maritime shipping and ports. It also provides a review of progress in the removal of barriers to the movement of people and goods on regional transport networks and a discussion of sustainable transport initiatives in the follow-up to the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development[8] and progress on the contribution of transport in the formulation of the development agenda beyond 2015.

The Commission may wish to provide guidance on the policy options identified and the initiatives being undertaken by the secretariat in support of member States.

[7] Commission resolution 69/7, annex.

[8] General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

Report of the Forum of Asian Ministers of Transport on its second session (E/ESCAP/70/12)

The Forum of Asian Ministers of Transport held its second session in Bangkok from 4 to 8 November 2013. It deliberated on the emerging issues affecting the development of transport in the region and the role of transport as a key to sustainable development and regional integration. The Forum also reviewed the progress achieved in the implementation of the Regional Action Programme for Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, phase II (2012-2016). It culminated in the adoption of the Ministerial Declaration on Transport as a Key to Sustainable Development and Regional Integration.

Marking a major milestone in the history of transport development in the region, the Forum featured a signing ceremony for the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports, which had been adopted by the Commission in its resolution 69/7.

The Commission may wish to consider the matters calling for action or brought to its attention as contained in the report of the Forum and provide the secretariat with further guidance.

(d) Environment and development

Documentation

Subprogramme overview: Issues and challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/70/5, section IV)

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (E/ESCAP/70/6, resolutions 67/2, 68/11, 69/4 and 69/9)

Report of the Committee on Environment and Development on its third session (E/ESCAP/70/13)

Report of the Asian and Pacific Energy Forum (E/ESCAP/70/28)

Report of the Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia (E/ESCAP/70/INF/3)

Report of the Mekong River Commission (E/ESCAP/70/INF/4)

Subprogramme overview: Issues and challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/70/5, section IV)

The document provides an overview of emerging and persistent issues related to sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region. Matters relating to the work of the subprogramme, including environmental sustainability, energy security, water resource management and sustainable urban development are presented. The document also contains a discussion on emerging trends towards inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in the region.

The Commission may wish to provide guidance on the policy options identified and the initiatives being undertaken by the secretariat to support member States.

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (E/ESCAP/70/6)

The document contains summaries on the progress made in the implementation of the following Commission resolutions:

(a) 67/2 on promoting regional cooperation for enhanced energy security and the sustainable use of energy in Asia and the Pacific;

(b) 68/11 on connectivity for energy security;

(c) 69/4 on the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Dialogue: From the Millennium Development Goals to the United Nations Development Agenda beyond 2015;

(d) 69/9 on the implementation of the Green Bridge Partnership Programme towards voluntary follow-up to the Rio+20 outcome "The future we want".

The Commission may wish to review the progress achieved and provide the secretariat with further guidance for effective implementation of the resolutions.

Report of the Committee on Environment and Development on its third session (E/ESCAP/70/13)

The Committee on Environment and Development held its third session in Bangkok from 29 to 31 October 2013. It engaged in a substantive interactive dialogue to formulate concrete policy recommendations and provide guidance to the secretariat on its subprogramme and activities in the area of environment and development. As part of these deliberations, the Committee reflected on the international and regional processes that are shaping future engagement on issues related to the environment, development and sustainability, as well as on outcomes of recent meetings held in this regard. The Committee provided guidance on the role ESCAP should play in implementing the outcomes of these meetings, as well as in moving forward with regional preparations for upcoming meetings, including the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific and the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III). The Committee session also served as an opportunity for member States to consider draft resolutions for submission to the Commission at its seventieth session.

The Commission may wish to consider the matters calling for action or brought to its attention, as contained in the report of the Committee, and provide the secretariat with further guidance.

Report of the Asian and Pacific Energy Forum (E/ESCAP/70/28)

The Asian and Pacific Energy Forum was held in Vladivostok, Russian Federation, from 27 to 30 May 2013. It discussed the progress achieved in the Asia-Pacific region in addressing energy security challenges at the regional, national and household levels, and reviewed opportunities for regional cooperation to promote enhanced energy security and the sustainable use of energy. The Forum adopted (a) the Ministerial Declaration on Regional Cooperation for Enhanced Energy Security and the Sustainable Use of Energy in Asia and the Pacific: Shaping the Future of Sustainable Energy in Asia and the Pacific, and (b) the Plan of Action on Regional Cooperation for Enhanced Energy Security and the Sustainable Use of Energy in Asia and the Pacific, 2014-2018. The Forum recommended that the Commission

endorse these outcomes and invited the Executive Secretary, with the participation of the members and associate members of the Commission, to review periodically the progress of implementation of the Plan of Action and to take the necessary decisions in this regard.

The Commission may therefore wish to consider the matters calling for its action or brought to its attention, as contained in the report of the Forum, and provide the secretariat with further guidance.

Report of the Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia (E/ESCAP/70/INF/3)

Report of the Mekong River Commission (E/ESCAP/70/INF/4)

The Commission may wish to take note of the two reports.

(e) Information and communications technology

(f) Disaster risk reduction

Documentation

Subprogramme overview: Issues and challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/70/5, section V)

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (E/ESCAP/70/6, resolution 67/4)

Report of the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction on its third session (E/ESCAP/70/14)

Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development on its eighth session (E/ESCAP/70/15)

Report of the Typhoon Committee (E/ESCAP/70/INF/5)

Report of the Panel on Tropical Cyclones (E/ESCAP/70/INF/6)

Subprogramme overview: Issues and challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/70/5, section V)

The document provides an overview of major issues and policy challenges in the region in the areas of information and communications technology (ICT), space applications and disaster risk reduction. It contains a discussion on key areas of policy actions that countries in the region need to pursue in order to benefit from emerging technologies, create a seamless regional information and communication space and reduce disaster risks. It contains highlights of the secretariat's initiatives in support of countries in these endeavours, including through the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development and the implementation of the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action for Applications of Space Technology and Geographic Information Systems for Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development, 2012-2017.[9] Also in the document are reviews of the achievements of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (APCICT) in the area of ICT capacity-building and highlights of the secretariat's initiatives that support

[9] E/ESCAP/69/25, annex II.

countries in efforts to build resilience to natural disasters by mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into broader sustainable development and poverty eradication frameworks, and to promote regional cooperation in disaster risk reduction, including through the ESCAP Multi-Donor Trust Fund for Tsunami, Disaster and Climate Preparedness in Indian Ocean and Southeast Asian Countries.

The Commission may wish to provide the secretariat with guidance on the policy options identified and the initiatives being undertaken by the secretariat in support of member States.

Report of the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction on its third session (E/ESCAP/70/14)

The Committee held its third session in Bangkok from 27 to 29 November 2013. It reviewed the trends and challenges of disaster and climate risks and their associated socioeconomic and environmental aspects. It expressed support for ESCAP initiatives in the area of disaster risk reduction and emphasized the importance of the following: (a) multisectoral policy planning aimed at mainstreaming disaster risk reduction, including initiatives related to climate change adaptation, into development planning; (b) regional cooperation on early warning systems and applications of space technology and geographic information systems for disaster risk reduction; and (c) voicing a common view regionally on integrating disaster risk reduction in the development agenda beyond 2015. The outcomes of the deliberations, including guidance for the secretariat, are reflected in the report of the Committee.

The Commission may wish to consider the matters calling for action or brought to its attention, as contained in the report of the Committee, and provide the secretariat with further guidance.

Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development on its eighth session (E/ESCAP/70/15)

The Commission may wish to review the report of the Governing Council and provide the secretariat with guidance for the future work of the Centre.

Report of the Typhoon Committee (E/ESCAP/70/INF/5)

Report of the Panel on Tropical Cyclones (E/ESCAP/70/INF/6)

The Commission may wish to take note of the two reports.

(g) Social development

Documentation

Subprogramme overview: Issues and challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/70/5, section VI)

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (E/ESCAP/70/6, resolutions 67/5, 67/6 and 69/13)

Report of the Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference (E/ESCAP/70/16)

Road Map for the Implementation of the Incheon Strategy to "Make the Right Real" for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/70/17)

Subprogramme overview: Issues and challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/70/5, section VI)

The document contains highlights of issues and challenges in the area of social development, focusing on regional preparations for the review of the Beijing Platform for Action[10] in Asia and the Pacific. Almost twenty years after the Fourth World Conference on Women was held in Beijing, the international community is gearing up for the commemoration of this historic event.

The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2013/18 on future organization and methods of work of the Commission on the Status of Women, called upon all States to undertake comprehensive national-level reviews of the progress made and challenges encountered in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and encouraged the regional commissions to undertake regional reviews so that the outcomes of the intergovernmental processes at the regional level could feed into the 2015 review at the global level.

In pursuance of the above mandate, ESCAP will be convening the Asian and Pacific Conference on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Beijing+20 Review in November 2014 to review progress and the remaining challenges in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, the outcome of which will be submitted to the global review.

The Commission's guidance and advice are sought on the regional preparations for the Beijing+20 Review, including the proposed agenda for the Asian and Pacific Conference on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Beijing+20 Review.

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (E/ESCAP/70/6)

The document contains summaries of the progress made in the implementation of the following Commission resolutions:

(a) 67/5 on Full and effective implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in the Asia-Pacific region;

(b) 67/6 on Enhancing accessibility for persons with disabilities at ESCAP;

(c) 69/13 on Implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, and the Incheon Strategy to "Make the Right Real" for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific.

The Commission may wish to review the progress achieved and provide the secretariat with further guidance for effective implementation of the resolutions.

[10] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

Report of the Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference (E/ESCAP/70/16)

The report on the Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference is submitted for the consideration and endorsement of the Commission.

The key outcome of the Conference was the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development. The Ministerial Declaration constitutes the Asia-Pacific input to the special session of the General Assembly on the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014, and also provides the framework for action on population and development issues in Asia and the Pacific for the next ten years. Accordingly, in the Ministerial Declaration, regional priorities with action required in such key areas as poverty reduction, employment, health, sexual and reproductive health, education, gender equality, ageing, young people, migration and sustainable development are identified.

Road map for the implementation of the Incheon Strategy to "Make the Right Real" for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/70/17)

The High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Final Review of the Implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012, which was held in Incheon, Republic of Korea, from 29 October to 2 November 2012, adopted the Ministerial Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022,[11] and the Incheon Strategy to "Make the Right Real" for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific, which were subsequently endorsed by the Commission in its resolution 69/13. The Incheon Strategy provides the Asia-Pacific region, and the world with the first set of regionally agreed disability-inclusive development goals. In that resolution, the Commission requested the Executive Secretary to submit to the Commission, at its seventieth session, a road map for the implementation of the Incheon Strategy.

The proposed road map contains major milestones and outputs to support the achievement of the goals of the Incheon Strategy during the new Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022. It also provides an overview of the planned activities for the first five years of the Decade (2013-2017) and outlines of resourcing and partnership arrangements.

The proposed road map for the implementation of the Incheon Strategy to "Make the Right Real" for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific is submitted for the consideration and endorsement of the Commission.

(h) Statistics

Documentation

Subprogramme overview: Issues and challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/70/5, section VII)

Report of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific on its ninth session (E/ESCAP/70/18)

[11] See E/ESCAP/69/12.

Subprogramme overview: Issues and challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/70/5, section VII)

The document provides an overview of the issues and challenges in the field of statistics and the secretariat's current and planned actions to follow up on the decisions and recommendations of the Committee on Statistics. It contains highlights of the secretariat's efforts to support the improvement of national capacity to provide an agreed basic range of population, economic, social and environmental statistics and to create a more adaptive and cost-effective information management environment for national statistical offices through collaboration. The document also contains an overview of the preparations under way for the ministerial meeting on civil registration and vital statistics, to be held in November 2014.

The Commission may wish to provide guidance on the policy options identified, and the initiatives being undertaken by the secretariat to support member countries, including preparations for the ministerial meeting.

Report of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific on its ninth session (E/ESCAP/70/18)

The Commission may wish to review the report of the Governing Council and provide the secretariat with guidance for the future work of the Institute.

(i) Subregional activities for development

Documentation

Subprogramme overview: Issues and challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/70/5, section VIII)

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (E/ESCAP/70/6, resolutions 68/1, 69/17)

Component 1
The Pacific

In the subprogramme overview, there is a review of the multidimensional and interrelated challenges facing the Pacific subregion which, despite being made up of some of the smallest and most vulnerable of member States, remains a significant global (ocean) ecosystem and economic asset. In drawing on the outcomes of the sixty-ninth session of the Commission and of the preparations for the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, to be held in Samoa in 2014, the document contains highlights of the policy options for addressing the unique and particular vulnerabilities of the Pacific island countries and territories with a focus on the sustainable management, conservation and use of ocean resources. Also in this overview, an agenda is set out for the work of the subregional office. The Commission may wish to provide the secretariat with guidance on policy options identified and the initiatives being undertaken by the secretariat in support of member States.

Component 2
East and North-East Asia

In the subprogramme overview, there is a review of recent socioeconomic developments and environmental challenges in the subregion. The document also contains discussions on the role of the subregional office in supporting the delivery of the secretariat's programme of work in the subregion, functioning as a hub for multilateral cooperation among member States in addressing common challenges and serving as the secretariat of the North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation. It also contains highlights of related work being done by the secretariat in response to the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

The Commission may wish to provide the secretariat with guidance on the policy options identified and the initiatives being undertaken by the secretariat in support of member States.

Component 3
North and Central Asia

The subprogramme overview provides highlights of issues and challenges in the North and Central Asian subregion and planned initiatives by the secretariat to support the achievement of inclusive and sustainable development. The subregion is working towards achieving internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, implementing the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and advancing the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015, through: (a) promoting inclusive and sustainable economic and social development; (b) improving regional connectivity by encouraging transport infrastructure development and facilitating regional trade; and (c) addressing water, energy, disaster risk reduction and environmental issues by strengthening cooperation and integration. The Commission may wish to provide the secretariat with guidance on the policy options identified and the initiatives being undertaken by the secretariat in support of member States.

Report of the Governing Council of the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia on its eighth session (E/ESCAP/70/19)

The Commission may wish to review the report of the Governing Council of the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia and provide the secretariat with guidance for the future work of the Programme.

Component 4
South and South-West Asia

The document provides highlights of the implementation of subregional initiatives by the secretariat in priority thematic areas identified by member States of the South and South-West Asian subregion to support inclusive and sustainable development. The document describes the strategies and policies implemented in the subregion to address the significant challenges in achieving robust and resilient growth; closing Millennium Development Goals-related gaps; and promoting inclusive development through measures to eradicate poverty and hunger, slow rising inequality, close wide infrastructure gaps and lower key barriers to greater production and trade for high value-added products. Additional actions to address food and energy security, reduce disaster risk and lend additional support to least developed and landlocked developing countries in the subregion are also

discussed. Another issue brought to the attention of the Commission is the essential role of increased regional connectivity as a catalyst for generating more inclusive growth and driving the alleviation of poverty through greater cooperation and integration in the subregion.

The Commission may wish to provide guidance on the policy options identified and the initiatives being undertaken by the secretariat to support member States.

4. Management issues

Under agenda item 4, the secretariat is submitting for the consideration of the Commission reports on a range of management issues relevant to the continued effectiveness of the work of ESCAP.

(a) Report on the evaluation activities of ESCAP during the biennium 2012-2013

Documentation

Report on the evaluation activities of ESCAP during the biennium 2012-2013 (E/ESCAP/70/20)

Programme performance report for the biennium 2012-2013 (E/ESCAP/70/29)

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (E/ESCAP/70/6, resolution 67/14)

Report on the evaluation activities of ESCAP during the biennium 2012-2013 (E/ESCAP/70/20)

The document provides an overview of evaluative exercises carried out during the biennium 2012-2013, with a focus on their main findings and recommendations, as well as key actions undertaken by the secretariat in responding to those recommendations. The document also includes a summary of the key findings and recommendations emanating from a programme evaluation on the secretariat's research, analytical and publications work conducted by the Office of Internal Oversight Services and provides an update on the implementation of the secretariat's monitoring and evaluation system.

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (E/ESCAP/70/6)

The document provides a summary of the progress made in the implementation of Commission resolution 67/14 on cooperation between the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and other United Nations and regional and subregional organizations serving Asia and the Pacific.

The Commission may wish to review the progress achieved and provide the secretariat with further guidance for effective implementation of the resolutions.

(b) Programme changes for the biennium 2014-2015

Documentation

Programme changes for the biennium 2014-2015 (E/ESCAP/70/21)

Programme changes for the biennium 2014-2015 are being proposed, owing to the adoption of new mandates by the Commission, as well as the identification of emerging global priorities by the Economic and Social Council, the General Assembly and global conferences since the endorsement of the draft programme of work by the Commission at its sixty-ninth session.

The Commission may wish to consider the proposed changes with a view to endorsing them for incorporation into the programme of work for 2014-2015.[12]

(c) Draft strategic framework for the biennium 2016-2017

Documentation

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2016-2017, part two: biennial programme plan, economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific (A/69/6 (Prog. 16))

The document consists of: (a) a narrative highlighting the overall orientation of the programme; and (b) elements of the logical framework for each subprogramme.

The Commission may wish to review the draft strategic framework for ESCAP for the biennium 2016-2017 with a view to endorsing it.

(d) Technical cooperation activities of ESCAP and announcement of intended contributions

Documentation

Overview of technical cooperation activities and extrabudgetary contributions (E/ESCAP/70/22)

The document contains a summary of the secretariat's technical cooperation activities in 2013, in accordance with the programme of work of ESCAP for 2012-2013 and Commission resolution 60/3 on the work of ESCAP in implementing its technical cooperation projects. It also provides an overview of the extrabudgetary resources mobilized in 2013 for implementing technical cooperation activities. The Commission may wish to provide the secretariat with guidance on future technical cooperation activities. Individual members may wish to announce intended contributions for 2014.

[12] See E/ESCAP/69/16. See also the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2014-2015, *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/67/6/Rev.1), programme 16.

5. Evaluation pursuant to resolution 67/4: Establishment of the Asian and Pacific centre for the development of disaster information management

Documentation

Evaluation pursuant to resolution 67/4: Establishment of the Asian and Pacific centre for the development of disaster information management (E/ESCAP/70/23)

The Commission in its resolution 67/4 requested the Executive Secretary to support the process for the establishment of the Centre, including the development of the required modalities and arrangements for its operationalization. In this regard, the document provides a brief account of the progress made by the secretariat as the result of the following:

(a) The organization of a side event by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, together with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, on disaster information management at the 5th Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, which was held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, from 22 to 25 October 2012;

(b) Technical assistance being provided to the Islamic Republic of Iran with regard to developing the programme of work for the Centre;

(c) The formation of an advisory group comprising eminent experts from the region to provide the Executive Secretary with technical advice on implementing the resolution;

(d) The holding of a regional expert group meeting in Bangkok from 27 to 29 November 2013, as well as a subregional expert group meeting in South and South-West Asia, which was held in New Delhi in January 2014, and a subregional group meeting in North and Central Asia, which was held in Almaty, Kazakhstan in February 2014, to discuss the programme of work with ESCAP member States from vulnerable subregions.

The Executive Secretary commissioned a team of external and independent evaluation consultants to undertake an evaluation of the activities under paragraph 4 of the resolution and the need for and benefit of establishing the Centre as a subsidiary body of the Commission. The results of the evaluation are reported under agenda item 5.

6. Activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission

Documentation

Report of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission (E/ESCAP/70/24)

The document covers the main activities of the Advisory Committee since the sixty-ninth session of the Commission, including its support to the Executive Secretary on matters related to programme planning, implementation and monitoring.

The Commission may wish to comment on the role of the Advisory Committee and provide further guidance regarding its work.

7. **Dates, venue and theme topic for the seventy-first session of the Commission (2015)**

Documentation

Dates, venue and theme topic for the seventy-first session of the Commission (2015) (E/ESCAP/70/25)

Unless the Commission decides otherwise, the seventy-first session of the Commission will be held in Bangkok in 2015. Under this agenda item, the Commission may also wish to select a theme topic for that session.

B. Ministerial segment

8. **Policy issues for the Asia-Pacific region**

(a) **Key challenges to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific**

(b) **Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2014**

Documentation

Summary of the Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2014 (E/ESCAP/70/26)

The document provides a review of the region's progress in sustainable development as it contends with the ongoing global economic crisis. It also assesses the vulnerabilities and development challenges facing the region and suggests policy recommendations to address them. Areas of economic, social and sustainable development to be considered include growth, inflation, trade, capital flows, remittances, employment, poverty, inequality, social protection, resource constraints and related environmental pressures. The document also provides an analysis of the policy challenges that member States face in achieving sustainable development by promoting sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth as advocated in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. In doing so, reference is made of the need to strengthen the developmental role of macroeconomic policies, as was highlighted in the 2013 *Survey* (see E/ESCAP/69/22), along with a discussion on ways for member States to mobilize more domestic resources by strengthening tax revenues, an action that is needed to boost public social and infrastructure expenditure and promote more sustainable and inclusive development.

9. **Theme topic for the seventieth session of the Commission: "Regional connectivity for shared prosperity"**

Documentation

Regional connectivity for shared prosperity (E/ESCAP/70/27)

The relationship between regional connectivity and shared prosperity is explored in the document. Using available data, mechanisms through which regional connectivity affects and contributes to economic and social development in a sustainable and inclusive way are evaluated.

Based on this analysis, the document contains a discussion on ways in which Governments can work together in partnerships with the private sector

and other stakeholders to close connectivity gaps in the region, while ensuring that the benefits arising from greater regional connectivity are shared equitably.

The Commission may wish to review the analysis and provide the secretariat with guidance on how to strengthen regional cooperation in Asia and the Pacific in order to achieve the goal of regional connectivity and shared prosperity for all.

10. Other matters

The Commission may wish to consider other matters brought to its attention.

11. Adoption of the report of the Commission

The Commission will consider and adopt the report on its seventieth session. Pursuant to annex I of resolution 69/1, the report of the Commission will be composed of the decisions and the resolutions of the Commission. The draft record of proceedings of the Commission session, prepared by the secretariat, will be circulated among members and associate members for comments within 15 days after the conclusion of the session.